

3rd Sig. Bde. welcomes Soldiers home

By Capt. Michael Greenberger

3D Sig. Bde. PAO

The 3rd Signal Brigade welcomed home the majority of Company A, 16th Signal Battalion, after a year in Iraq Dec. 20 in a ceremony in the 13th Corps Support Command gym.

The company's tour in Iraq began with a five-day ground assault convoy to Qurrayah West Airfield, one of the future Iraqi contingency operations bases.

While in Iraq, the company

worked with a commercialization team to replace tactical signal assets with commercial options, thus reducing the number of Soldiers needed in Iraq. Under the supervision of Co. A Executive Officer Capt. Ben Wright, the company's wire and cable installers laid more than 200 miles of fiber optic cable.

According to Capt. Allen Stotts, Co. A commander, with the commercialization of tactical communications comes the cutting edge use of Voice over Internet Protocol, or VoIP. VoIP

technology can be compared to digital phone service offered by local cable provider Time Warner Cable.

Among the services provided by an area signal company are telephone, internet, tactical internet and satellite communications.

3rd Signal Brigade's commander, Col. Robert Bethea Jr., and Command Sgt. Maj. Johnny Dorsey met the incoming Soldiers and shook their hands as they stepped off the airplane and back into Texas at Robert Gray Army Airfield.